

CLAIMS

1. A data handling device for organising and storing media objects for subsequent retrieval, the media objects having associated metadata tags, comprising a display for displaying representations of the media objects, data storage means for allocating metadata tags to the media objects, an input device comprising means to allow a representation of a selected media object to be moved into a region of the display representing a selected set of metadata tags, and means for causing the selected set of tags to be applied to the media object.
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2. A device according to claim 1, configured to allow a user to generate additional metadata tags having new values, such that the media objects may be further categorised.
- 15 3. A device according to claim 1 or claim 2, configured to provide a view of media objects to which one or more of a predetermined plurality of metadata tags have been applied.
- 20 4. A device according to any preceding claim, configured to provide a view of media objects to which each of a predetermined plurality of metadata tags have been applied.
5. A device according to claim 4, wherein means are provided to provide user control of the maximum number of metadata tag sets to be displayed.
- 25 6. A device according to any preceding claim, in which representations of the media objects are capable of being moved between regions of the display area representing sets of metadata tags having pre-defined values.
7. A device according to claim 6, comprising means for removing a representation of a selected media object from one display area and adding it to another, thereby applying the metadata tag set associated with the second area to the selected media object in place of the set of metadata tags associated with the first area.
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8. A device according to claim 6 or claim 7 wherein a representation of a media object selected from a display area associated with a first metadata tag set applied to the media
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object may remain there whilst a copy of the selected media object is placed in a second area, thereby applying the metadata tag set associated with the second area to the media object in addition to the set associated with the first area.

5 9. A device according to any preceding claim, providing means for indicating the number of media objects associated with a given set of metadata tags

10. A device according to any preceding claim, providing means for indicating the number of metadata tags associated with one or more media objects

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11. A device according to claim 10, providing means for identifying media objects to which no metadata tags have been applied by providing a display area representing an empty set

15 12. A device according to any preceding claim, providing means for selecting a subset of the media objects for allocating a given set of metadata tags.

13. A device according to any preceding claim, providing means for making the size of the display area allocated to each set of metadata tags proportional to the number of 20 media objects portrayed therein.

14. A computer program or suite of computer programs for use with one or more computers to provide any of the apparatus as set out in any one of claims 1 to 13.

25 15. A method of organising and storing media objects for subsequent retrieval, the media objects being represented in a display, and in which metadata tags are applied to the media objects by selecting an individual media object from the display, and causing a set of metadata tags to be applied to the selected media object by placing a representation of the selected media object in a region of the display selected to represent 30 the set of tags to be applied.

16. A method according to claim 15, in which a user may generate additional metadata tags having new values, such that the media objects may be further categorised.

17. A method according to claim 15 or 16, wherein a view is provided of media objects to which one or more of a predetermined plurality of metadata tags have been applied.
18. A method according to claim 15, 16, or 17, wherein a view is provided of media objects to which each of a predetermined plurality of metadata tags have been applied.
19. A method according to any of claims 15 to 18, wherein provision is made to control the maximum number of categories to be displayed.
- 10 20. A method according to any of claims 15 to 19, in which representations of the media objects are moved between regions of the display area representing sets of metadata tags having pre-defined values.
- 15 21. A method according to claim 20, wherein a representation of a media object is selected from a first display area associated with a first metadata tag set, and a copy of the selected representation is placed in a second area whilst the original representation remains in the first area, thereby applying the metadata tag set associated with the second area to the media object, in addition to the set associated with the first area.
- 20 22. A method according to claims 20 or 21 wherein a representation of a selected media object may be removed from a first display area associated with one metadata tag set when added to a second display area, thereby applying the set of metadata tags associated with the second display area to the selected media item in place of the set of metadata tags associated with the first display area.
- 25 23. A method according to any of claims 15 to 22, wherein the number of media objects associated with a given set of metadata tags is indicated.
- 30 24. A method according to any of claims 15 to 23, wherein the number of metadata tags associated with one or more media objects is indicated
25. A method according to claim 24, wherein media objects to which no metadata tags have been applied are identified by providing a display area representing an empty set.

26. A method according to any of claims 15 to 25, wherein a subset of the media objects may be selected for allocation of a given set of metadata tags.
27. A method according to any of claims 15 to 26, wherein the size of the display area allocated to each set of metadata tags is proportional to the number of media objects portrayed therein.
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28. A computer program or suite of computer programs for use with one or more computers to provide the method of any one of claims 15 to 26.